

this drought lasts a fourth or a fifth year, California will be rationing water in southern California and in the Bay Area, and we will see a horrific set of circumstances affecting our State.

So it is time to act now, both with the short-term remedies as well as with the long-term remedies. We need to try to do everything we can to plan for the next year in the event that this drought continues. We need to provide flexibility at the Federal and State pumps to move water around, to make water banks work, and yes, in the long term, we need to fix the plumbing system in the delta.

California has 38 million people. By the year 2030, it is estimated we will have 50 million people. We have a water system designed for 20 million people. It cannot work. So, with a larger coalition of the Latino Water Caucus, we marched on water in April. We are going to continue to march. We are going to continue to try to seek out our colleagues who want to constructively help us with the administration to understand that both short-term and long-term investments in California infrastructure are critical if we are going to solve this problem.

This is a forerunner of what's occurring, not just here in California but around the world. Water is the lifeblood of man's ability to produce food and fiber. The problems we are having in California today are happening around the world. We need to act today.

VETERANS COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEINRICH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to introduce the Veterans Communication Improvement Act. This bill will provide for a smoother transition for servicemembers moving to veteran status, and it will help facilitate the communication between all veterans and veterans' services.

Currently, when a servicemember concludes his service to our country, he fills out a form known as the DD-214. This form is essentially a compilation of a member's time in the military. It includes awards and medals and other pertinent service information such as promotions, combat service or service overseas. The DD-214 also contains information needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations, which makes it one of the most important documents in the military.

As to be expected, the DD-214 contains the current physical address and phone number of the veteran, but there is no place on the form for a veteran to include his or her e-mail as the best way to be contacted. Far too often,

however, when servicemembers return home from active duty or if a veteran has simply moved to a new home, they lose contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill will enable one more avenue of communication, an e-mail address, to be included on each servicemember's DD-214 form.

For many veterans, particularly for our youngest veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, a personal e-mail address is the most common and efficient way to communicate with them. In utilizing modern e-mail technology, this legislation will make great strides in expediting the delivery of benefits that our country's veterans unquestionably deserve. These brave Americans and their families have made immeasurable sacrifices to our Nation's well-being. I am honored to sponsor this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

REGIONAL IMPACTS OF CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I thank the Speaker.

Today, I rise as a southern Congressman to discuss the regional impacts, Mr. Speaker, on clean energy legislation and on a renewable electricity standard in particular.

We have heard that it is impossible to have a national renewable electricity standard, because different States have different renewable energy resources, and that the southeastern United States, in particular, would be unable to meet targets established by the renewable electricity standard in the draft American Clean Energy and Security Act now being considered by the Energy and Commerce Committee of this body.

I represent a State in which there is not a single utility-scale renewable generation facility. The Virginia General Assembly has not enacted a mandatory renewable electricity standard, so we have failed to create market certainty for firms that would invest in renewable energy otherwise. In contrast, New Jersey has 44 megawatts of grid-connected solar capacity, fueled in part by a 22.5 percent renewable electricity standard with solar set aside. New Jersey has more than twice as much grid-connected solar energy generation than the total for all States without a renewable electricity standard, including Virginia, even though it has less solar exposure than any State in the Southeast. What we have witnessed in the Southeast is not a lack of natural resources but, perhaps, a lack of political will.

Since we are in the midst of the most severe economic contraction since the Great Depression, the clean energy jobs legislation before us represents not an academic debate but, rather, an opportunity to spur economic growth and to reduce greenhouse gas pollution based

in successful policies that have been enacted at home and abroad.

Just as more than half of our States have enacted successful renewable electricity standards, so too have other nations. Germany, for example, has a lower solar exposure than almost all of the United States, and yet it is the world's leader in renewable energy, as documented in a recent article in the National Journal. In the last decade, the number of Germans employed in the renewable energy sector has grown from 30,000 to 280,000. Germany has installed 22,247 megawatts of wind energy and 3,811 megawatts of solar photovoltaic. Strong mandatory incentives for renewable energy have fueled this jobs boom in Germany.

The number of coal mining jobs in the United States has fallen by 50 percent in the last three decades, principally due to mechanization. Those coal jobs disappeared from States like Virginia and West Virginia, which lack incentives for renewable energy. In Germany, on the other hand, the number of coal mining jobs also has fallen, but the number of renewable energy jobs created has more than offset the lost jobs by a factor of five. Unfortunately, many U.S. companies, like First Solar, have built factories in Germany rather than here in America because Germany had requirements for renewable energy production.

The minority claims that a clean energy bill will result in net job losses, but in reality, we are losing jobs right now because we do not have a stronger clean energy policy. We cannot cling to antiquated modes of energy production that are hemorrhaging jobs and then expect to achieve, much less expedite, an economic recovery here at home. If we are to drive economic growth, we must invest in innovation and in job creation, not in exhausted resources and outmoded systems of production.

Here in the South, where we have not benefited from strong renewable energy incentives, we need a national renewable electricity standard to create new jobs in both mill towns that have lost jobs overseas and in prosperous business centers such as those I represent in northern Virginia. The Southeast has wind resources in the Continental Shelf, in the Appalachian Mountains, and it has good solar exposure throughout our entire region.

Now is the time, Mr. Speaker, to exploit those natural resources and to produce energy right here at home. Now is the time to pass clean energy jobs legislation with a strong renewable electricity standard.

CROSSROADS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for 2 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is being called on to make some very critical